

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 197-2004**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** July 27, 2004

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge M. Gonzalez".

**Subject:** Informational Workshops for the Medicaid Discount Cards

The Neighborhood Services Department, Office of Community Services is collaborating with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Alliance for Aging, Inc. to present a series of public workshops to promote use of the Medicare-approved Prescription Drug Discount Cards in our community. The workshops will be held in the Commission Chambers on August 2, 2004 and will be presented in English and Spanish in the following schedule:

Session Time	Language
9:30am	English
11:30am	Spanish
2:30pm	English
4:30pm	Spanish

The Medicare-approved Prescription Drug Discount Cards are intended to be a resource for elder and disabled residents of Florida with Medicare coverage who are not enrolled in a health maintenance organization (HMO). The card lowers the cost of prescription medications.

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Alliance for the Aging, Inc., the area agency on aging for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, collaboratively support the Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) program to educate the community on health-care options including prescription medication coverage. The focus of these workshops will be the Prescription Drug Discount Card and Transitional Assistance Program. This initiative provides seniors and persons with disabilities with a savings of 10 to 25 percent on prescriptions drugs. Low-income beneficiaries may also be eligible for an additional \$600 transitional credit. Currently, Florida consumers have more than two dozen discount cards to select from with an additional 10 options through managed care plan "exclusive cards."

There is also a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2004, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers being held by the Alliance for Aging to obtain seniors' needs and input on experiences with service delivery to develop a three-year plan. The Alliance for Aging is responsible for the majority of funding for agencies that provide elder services. Florida law requires that a plan for the elderly be prepared every three years and the planning process for the 2005-07 plan is currently underway.

**RECEIVED**  
CITY CLERK'S DEPT.

JUL 28 2004

By   
Time 3:43 pm

*Page 2 of 2*  
*Letter to Commission*  
*July 27, 2004*

These workshops are being promoted through flyers distributed throughout the community including the Housing Authority of Miami Beach, Miami Beach Community development Corporation, and elder housing buildings. In addition, the Department of Elder Affairs and Our Office of Media Relations have distributed press releases for these workshops to the local media.

Attachments

JMG/RCM/VG/MR

cc: Robert Middaugh, Assistant City Manager  
Vivian P. Guzman, Director, Neighborhood Services Department  
Maria L. Ruiz, Division Director, Office of Community Services

### Possible Fraud Scams

Please be aware of fraudulent activities. Individuals may take advantage of Medicare beneficiaries by offering to enroll seniors in exchange for their social security/credit card number or banking information.

*If you have an encounter that you think may be fraudulent, please report it to the Florida Attorney General's Fraud Hotline at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226) or the Medicare Fraud Hotline at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477).*



### Department of Elder Affairs

#### Mission Statement

*To create an environment that provides choices, promotes independence and enables older Floridians to remain in their communities for a lifetime.*

For more information, contact:

**CMS**

CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

**1-800-MEDICARE**  
(1-800-633-4227)  
TTY 1-877-486-2948  
<http://www.medicare.gov>

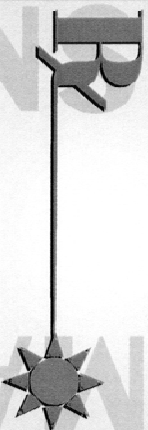
or to speak with a  
SHINE volunteer call the  
Elder Helpline.



**1-800-96-ELDER**



## MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM



**Jeb Bush**  
Governor



**Terry White**  
Secretary

## MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

### *The Medicare Prescription Drug Discount*

*Card Program* is an interim prescription assistance program created through *The Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA)*. This brochure was prepared to inform Florida's Medicare consumers about the discount card, available assistance and possible fraud activities associated with marketing of the card.

### *What is the Medicare Drug Discount Card?*

The discount card is a new way to provide prescription drug savings to people on Medicare. Seniors and persons with disabilities will receive a 10 to 25 percent savings on their prescription drugs. Low-income beneficiaries may also be eligible for an additional \$600 transitional credit.

Florida consumers have more than two-dozen discount cards to select from with an additional ten options through managed care plan "exclusive cards." Discount card sponsors are contracted by the federal *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)*.

*All cards must have the following seal:*



### *Who is eligible?*

If you're on Medicare because you are age 65 and older, or have a disability, you can take part in this voluntary program. If you already receive outpatient drugs through Medicaid, however, you do not need to sign up for the card.

### *When is the card available?*

You may enroll in a discount card program as early as May 3, 2004 when card sponsors begin their marketing efforts. Discounts will start June 2004. You may enroll in only one card at a time, but you may change cards during the Annual Coordinated Election Period (beginning November 15 through December 31, 2004).

### *Which card is right for you?*

- Decide if you want a discount card
- Know your prescriptions and costs
- Find and compare the cards available in your area
- Take your time and choose the one that best meets your needs

### *Where do I find more information?*

*The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)* provide assistance to consumers regarding card options and price comparisons. Information is available toll-free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or by visiting [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and selecting the "Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs" search tool.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a statewide volunteer-based program that empowers Medicare recipients and their caregivers to make informed decisions about health and prescription drug issues. One-on-one SHINE counseling services are offered free of charge by volunteers who uphold client confidentiality while providing information and unbiased advice.



For more information or to arrange a group presentation, call the Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) and ask for a SHINE volunteer.